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DA INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

R-354-37

USARV, AFV

PAGE 2

MR. MOHAMMAD LAHIG EGYPT (U)

1. On a visit to FC, 10 May 57, Mr. MOHAMMAD LAHIG, Director of CMV, stated that GOC had finally released him from his contract and that he and his wife were definitely leaving Egypt on 25 May 1957. During the conversation Mr. LAHIG provided the following information:

a. Although theoretically the CMV Company has been nationalized, GOC has not yet paid off the stock holders. This corrects R-970-56.

b. Production of rockets has not started, and it is unlikely that it will for a number of years. During the past six months the Egyptians attempted to use the factory to manufacture bazooka rockets, but unsuccessfully.

c. As his departing recommendation Mr. LAHIG advised that instead of wasting large sums in trying to produce rockets that GOC set aside a small amount in the annual budget to keep the Egyptian technical personnel now partially trained on rocket research and development together as a team and permit them to continue their studies and familiarization on this subject. Mr. LAHIG presented the idea that although GOC could not now produce rockets, it might be able to do so several years hence, and it would be wise not to disperse and lose the technical personnel already partially trained. According to source, CMV Major Makia ~~AMM~~ approved of this suggestion.

d. Although the above suggestion was accepted two months ago, GOC has been unable to decide which of the two services, Air Force or Army, should be in charge of the continued operation of the plant. Mr. LAHIG states that the plant will be placed under the administrative control of the Chief of War Factories, Major General Abdel Wahab Saris al Bismil (R-107-55) and his assistant Brigadier Air Abdel Dabbas (R-82-54). However, the technical chief of the factory (Army or Air Force) has not yet been selected. Mr. LAHIG stated that he originally suggested that Colonel HINDAWI (fnu), the most knowledgeable officer on rocketry be chief, but HINDAWI refused to be considered for the position, since according to Mr. LAHIG his transfer would mean forced retirement; HINDAWI aspires to reach the grade of Brigadier (to be promoted to Major General upon retirement) before leaving the Army. Col HINDAWI is a Engineer officer (not to be confused with R-225-56).

e. As an alternate Mr. LAHIG suggested the appointment of Brigadier Amin ELAMI Kamel (R-267-55), who he described as lacking the technical know-how but was a go-getter.

2. Asked if any of his German colleagues would remain at CMV, source stated "No". All had been fired last March in spite of the fact that their contracts ran until June. They are currently waging a legal battle with GOC for back pay. Their only one acquaintance with GOC will be Dr. RUDOLF ALT.

3. Asked about Soviet participation in rocketry here, LAHIG stated that there was no Soviet types at the CMV plant; however, to the best of his knowledge there are five Czech technicians with the Egyptian Army as advisors on rocketry.

4. Asked what he intended to do after he left Egypt, LAHIG stated that he had been offered and expected to accept a position of coordinator for a combined French-Japanese Research Project in rocketry with headquarters in Berlin. He stated that he had also been offered a position with the Japanese Government at a more attractive salary but that he preferred to stay closer to home.

5. LAHIG gave his home address in Germany as follows: Freiburg, Breisgau, Poststrasse 23, Telephone 8455. This is apparently the address (residence) of his other.

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6. Asked whether or not he would have any difficulty in taking his personal possessions with him from Egypt, particularly his private library on rocketry, MUKHL stated that this subject had been a long struggle with him but with the assistance of Amr Salah, with whom he has been on friendly terms, the road had been paved. All of his possessions are now packed for export, and he expects no trouble.

Comment (of Preparing Officer) (CONFIDENTIAL)

1. MUKHL has been a controversial figure in Egypt. Among the German community known to FO, MUKHL is either described as a genius or a fool.

2. Although contacted periodically by FO, MUKHL has never been an excellent source. On subjects about which he should have personal knowledge, he appears to be reliable; on other subjects, however, he appears to talk free hearsay and has not proven accurate.

3. The information concerning the GMIV plant in this report and personnel involved is believed to be reliable. The accuracy of the rest of the information except for MUKHL's address is doubtful.

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